



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending March 17, 2018

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY

During the week ending March 17, 2018, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers and by Maryland Emergency Departments remained similar to the prior week. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI decreased. Clinical laboratories reported an increase in the proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza. Two hundred seventy-four specimens tested positive for influenza at the MDH lab. There were 78 influenza-associated hospitalizations. The cumulative season number of influenza-associated deaths among hospitalized adults was 78. Four respiratory outbreaks were reported to MDH.

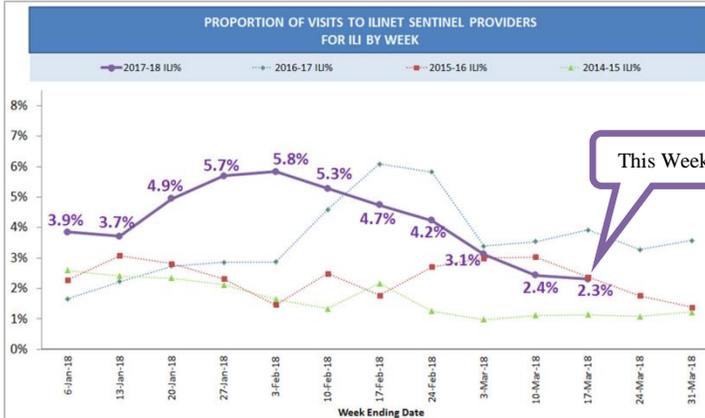
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Activity
No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

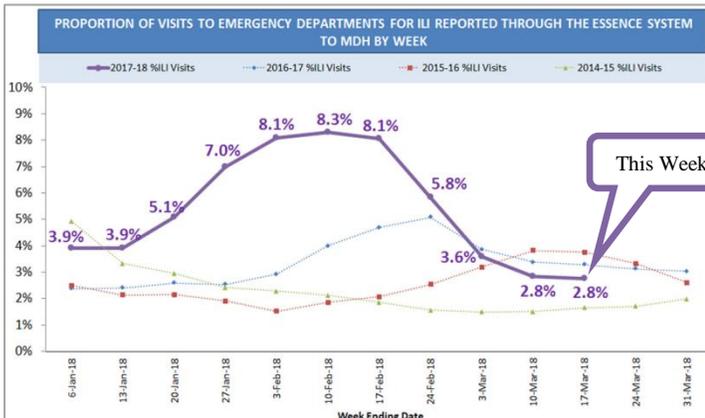
Eighteen sentinel providers reported a total of 6,192 visits this week. Of those, 143 (2.3%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of 2.0%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	29 (20%)	35 (19%)	1,095 (22%)
Age 5-24	65 (45%)	88 (49%)	1,986 (40%)
Age 25-49	32 (22%)	37 (20%)	1,040 (21%)
Age 50-64	14 (10%)	15 (8%)	535 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (2%)	6 (3%)	249 (5%)
Total	143 (100%)	181 (100%)	4,905 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,294 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,198 (2.8%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	223 (19%)	240 (20%)	9,119 (24%)
Age 5-24	371 (31%)	351 (30%)	10,700 (28%)
Age 25-49	351 (29%)	338 (29%)	9,729 (26%)
Age 50-64	153 (13%)	147 (12%)	4,755 (13%)
Age ≥ 65	100 (8%)	104 (9%)	3,704 (10%)
Total	1,198 (100%)	1,180 (100%)	38,007 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

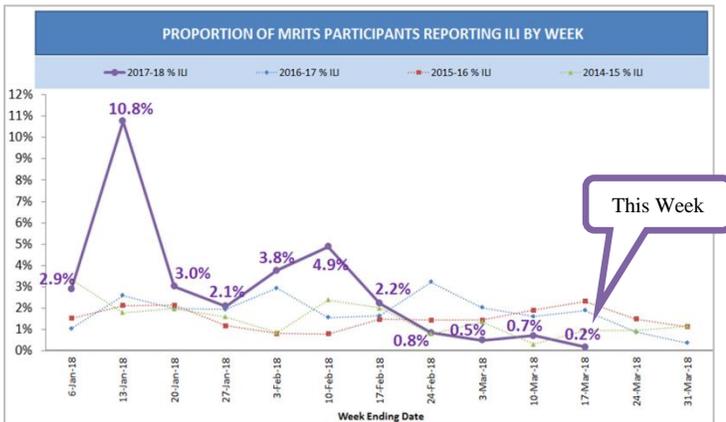
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkrJD8>
- Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/>
- West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

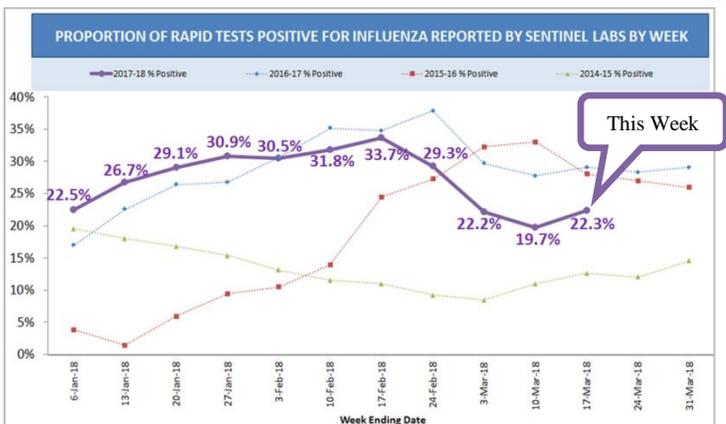
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 597 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 1 (0.2%) reported having ILI and missing 1 cumulative day of regular daily activities.



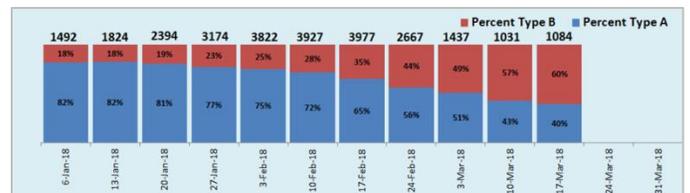
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	7 (3%)
Age 5-24	--	4 (100%)	75 (33%)
Age 25-49	1 (100%)	--	45 (20%)
Age 50-64	--	--	77 (33%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	26 (11%)
Total	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	230 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

There were 51 clinical laboratories reporting 4,852 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 1,084 (22.3%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 432 (40%) were influenza Type A and 652 (60%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

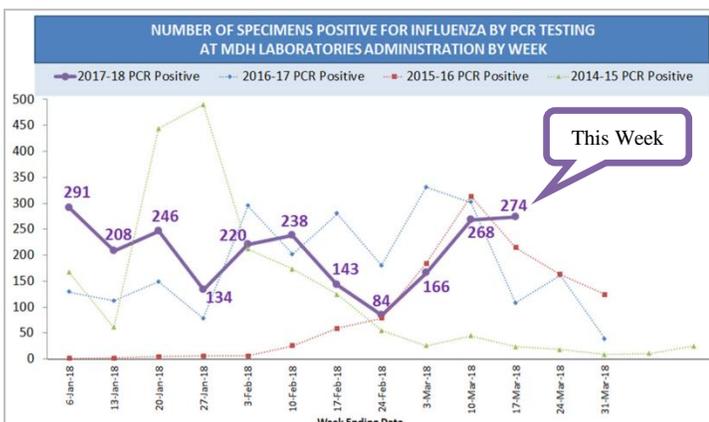


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	432 (40%)	443 (43%)	20,590 (70%)
Type B	652 (60%)	588 (57%)	8,829 (30%)
Total	1,084 (100%)	1,031 (100%)	29,419 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The MDH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 347 PCR tests for influenza and 274 (79.0%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 142 (51.8%) were positive for Type A (H3), 46 (16.8%) were positive for Type A (H1), 75 (27.4%) were positive for Type B (Yamagata), 9 (3.3%) were positive for Type B (Victoria), and there were 2 (0.7%) that were positive for dual Type A(H3)/B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The MDH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A and lineages of influenza B, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type, subtype, and lineage.



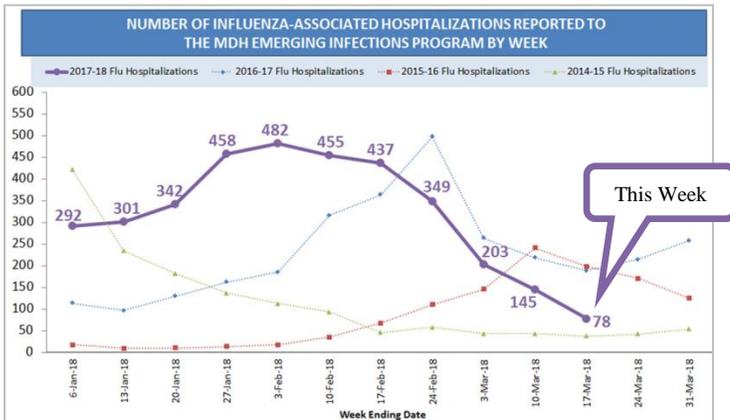
Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	46 (17%)	77 (29%)	465 (18%)
Type A (H3)	142 (52%)	152 (57%)	1,639 (65%)
Type B (Victoria)	9 (3%)	3 (1%)	33 (1%)
Type B (Yamagata)	75 (27%)	36 (13%)	381 (15%)
Dual Type A (H1/H3)	--	--	2 (<1%)
Dual Type A(H3)/B	2 (1%)	--	5 (<1%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	3 (<1%)
Total	274 (100%)	268 (100%)	2,528 (100%)

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

A total of 78 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.) This surveillance is conducted as a component of the Maryland Emerging Infections Program.



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	5 (6%)	9 (6%)	256 (6%)
Age 5-17	5 (6%)	8 (6%)	193 (5%)
Age 18-24	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	104 (3%)
Age 25-49	13 (17%)	22 (15%)	509 (13%)
Age 50-64	15 (19%)	19 (13%)	860 (21%)
Age ≥ 65	38 (49%)	86 (59%)	2,133 (53%)
Total	78 (100%)	145 (100%)	4,055 (100%)

Influenza-associated Deaths

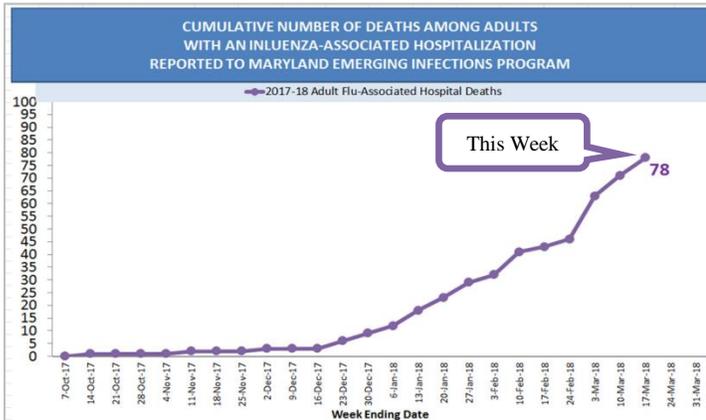
An influenza-associated death is one with a clinically compatible illness and a positive influenza test of any kind.

Pediatric Deaths: The total number of pediatric (< 18 years of age) deaths reported this influenza season is 3.

Influenza-associated pediatric mortality is a reportable condition in Maryland. Pediatric deaths are tracked without regard to hospitalization.

Adult Deaths Among Hospitalized Patients: A total of 78 deaths have been reported among adults admitted to Maryland hospitals this influenza season.

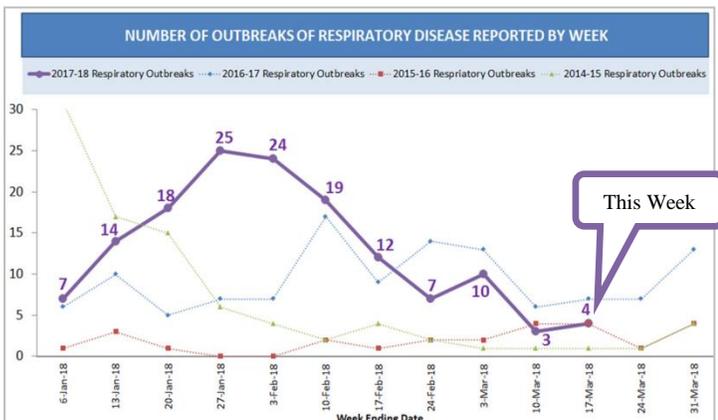
Influenza-associated adult mortality is *not* a reportable condition in Maryland. However, adult mortality surveillance is conducted as a component of the Maryland Emerging Infections Program’s influenza-associated hospitalization surveillance.



Influenza-Associated Deaths	Cumulative Season Total
Pediatric Deaths (Age < 18)	3
Adult Deaths (in hospitalized cases)	78

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were four respiratory outbreaks reported to MDH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	4 (100%)	3 (100%)	129 (79%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	22 (14%)
Pneumonia	--	--	12 (8%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	3 (100%)	163 (100%)

